



ORSANCO

Ohio River Valley Water Sanitation Commission
orsanco.org/water-quality-information

The Ohio River Valley Water Sanitation Commission is a compact interstate agency. Since 1948, ORSANCO and its member states have cooperated to improve water quality in the Ohio River Basin ensuring the river supports its four designated uses. ORSANCO operates monitoring programs to check for pollutants and toxins that threaten water quality of the Ohio River.

PFAS (forever chemicals)

Per-and Polyflourinated Sustances

PFAS are widely used, long lasting chemicals, components of which break down very slowly over time. They are man-made and can be found in a variety of consumer products and water.

Examples of products that may contain PFAS



takeout containers



water



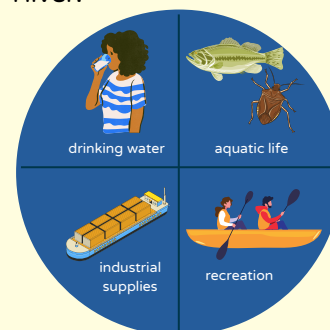
non-stick cookware



firefighting foam



waterproof clothing



4 Uses

PFAS can be found in water, air, soil, and living organisms. They are found at low levels nearly everywhere in the world.

These compounds bioaccumulate in fish and wildlife, which may be consumed by humans. Continued research and monitoring is needed to understand the effects on ecosystems.



Scientific studies have shown that exposure to some PFAS in the environment may be linked to harmful health effects in humans and animals.

- PFAS are known to bioaccumulate in protein-rich tissues of fish
- They are linked to tumors in animals and lower reproductive success in birds

* For more PFAS information, visit epa.gov/pfas
For effects on wildlife, click [here](#)

ORSANCO Monitoring of the Ohio River

- In 2021, ORSANCO completed a baseline study of ambient levels including
 - 28 PFAS in Ohio River surface water. Sampling indicated the presence of select PFAS analytes at or above trace levels, [read more here](#).
- In 2023, ORSANCO's broad scan survey included screening for 40 PFAS.
- ORSANCO routinely monitors for a suite of 35 PFAS in [fish tissue](#).



Ohio River Basin